

CHAPTER 626B

UNIFORM FOREIGN MONEY-JUDGMENTS RECOGNITION ACT

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626B.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#) unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Foreign judgment*” means a judgment, decree, or order of a court of a foreign state granting or denying recovery of a sum of money, other than a judgment for taxes, a fine or other penalty, or a judgment for support of dependents.

2. “*Foreign state*” means any governmental unit other than the United States, a state, district, commonwealth, territory, insular possession of the United States, the Panama Canal Zone, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or the Ryukyu Islands.

89 Acts, ch 173, §1

626B.2 Application and enforceability.

[This chapter](#) applies to any foreign judgment which is final and conclusive, and enforceable where rendered even though the judgment is subject to an appeal or an appeal from that judgment is pending. Except as provided in [section 626B.3](#), a foreign judgment is conclusive between the parties to the extent that the judgment grants or denies recovery of a sum of money. The final and conclusive foreign judgment is enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as the judgment of a sister state which is entitled to full faith and credit.

89 Acts, ch 173, §2

626B.3 Inconclusive judgments.

1. A foreign judgment is not conclusive in any of the following cases:

a. The foreign judgment was rendered under a system which does not provide impartial tribunals or procedures compatible with the requirements of due process of law.

b. Except as provided in [section 626B.4](#), the court of the foreign state did not have personal jurisdiction over the defendant.

c. The court of the foreign state did not have jurisdiction over the subject matter involved in the action.

2. A foreign judgment need not be recognized in any of the following cases:

a. The defendant in the proceedings in the court of the foreign state did not receive notice of the proceedings in sufficient time to enable the defendant to defend against the action.

b. The foreign judgment was obtained by fraud.

c. The cause of action on which the foreign judgment was based is contrary to the public policy of this state.

d. The foreign judgment conflicts with a previous, final, and conclusive foreign judgment or other judgment.

e. The proceeding in the foreign court was contrary to a settlement agreement entered into between the parties prior to the foreign judgment’s being rendered by the court in the foreign state.

f. The court where the plaintiff is seeking to enforce the foreign judgment determines that jurisdiction in the court of the foreign state was based upon personal service only, and the doctrine of forum non conveniens applies to the original action.

89 Acts, ch 173, §3

Referred to in [§624.24](#), [626B.2](#), [626B.6](#)

626B.4 Personal jurisdiction.

1. A foreign judgment shall not be refused recognition in a court of this state for lack of personal jurisdiction if any of the following occurred:

a. The defendant was served personally in the foreign state.

b. The defendant voluntarily appeared in the proceedings, other than for the purpose of protecting property seized or threatened with seizure in the proceedings or for the purpose of contesting jurisdiction of the court in the foreign state over the defendant.

c. The defendant, prior to the commencement of the proceedings in the court of the foreign state, had agreed to submit to the jurisdiction of that court in the action concerning the subject matter involved.

d. The defendant was domiciled, had its principal place of business, or otherwise had acquired corporate status in the foreign state when the proceedings were instituted.

e. The defendant had a business office in the foreign state and the proceedings in the court of the foreign state involved a cause of action arising out of business done by the defendant through that office in the foreign state.

f. The defendant operated a motor vehicle or airplane in the foreign state and the proceedings involved a cause of action arising out of that operation.

2. A court of this state may recognize other bases of jurisdiction.

89 Acts, ch 173, §4

Referred to in [§626B.3](#)

626B.5 Effect of appeal.

Upon satisfactory proof by the defendant that an appeal is pending or that the defendant is entitled to and intends to appeal the foreign judgment, the court may stay the proceedings until the appeal has been determined or until a sufficient period of time has expired during which the defendant could have commenced an appeal in the court of the foreign state.

89 Acts, ch 173, §5

Referred to in [§624.24](#)

626B.6 Other foreign judgments.

1. [This chapter](#) does not prevent the recognition of a foreign judgment by a court of this state in a situation not specifically covered in [this chapter](#).

2. The filing of a foreign judgment shall not create a lien upon any real estate until all challenges, if any, to the conclusiveness of the foreign judgment are concluded pursuant to [section 626B.3](#). Upon final determination of the conclusiveness of the foreign judgment, such judgment shall constitute a lien on real estate pursuant to [section 624.24](#).

89 Acts, ch 173, §6; 2007 Acts, ch 192, §3

626B.7 Uniformity of interpretation.

[This chapter](#) shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

89 Acts, ch 173, §7

626B.8 Short title.

[This chapter](#) may be cited as the “*Uniform Foreign Money-Judgments Recognition Act*”.

89 Acts, ch 173, §8